

### AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for energy management comprising:  
receiving energy rating data at an on-premise processor transmitted by a distribution network from a host processor and storing the energy rating data in a memory, the rating data including a schedule pertaining to time and energy costs;  
receiving at the on-premise processor a message from a ~~power load controller~~ an end device requesting energy rating data, the end device controlling load activation, and wherein the message is communicated using a wireless communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the message through at least one other ~~power load controller~~ end device;  
retrieving the energy rating data from the memory and sending a response message including the energy rating data using the wireless communications link from the on-premise processor to the ~~power load controller~~ end device; and  
determining in the ~~power load controller~~ end device whether to generate an activation signal based at least in part on the energy rating data.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation signal activates a power load.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation signal activates a power generator.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the energy rating data further comprises a first time period associated with a first usage rate and a second time period associated with a second usage rate.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the ~~power load controller~~ end device determines whether to activate the power load based at least in part on the current time.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network transmits the rating data wirelessly.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the distribution network transmits the rating data wirelessly using an 802.15.4- based communications link.

8. (Currently amended) A method for energy management, comprising:  
sending an energy rate request message from an appliance, the appliance controlling load activation, and wherein the request message is communicated using a wireless communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the message through at least one other appliance;  
receiving an energy rate schedule at the appliance using the wireless communication link, the energy rate schedule comprising a first time period for a first usage rate and a second time period for a second usage rate; and  
determining in the appliance whether to activate a power load based in part on the energy rate schedule and a current time.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising storing the energy rate schedule in a memory in the appliance.

10. (Currently amended) A method for energy management comprising:  
receiving at an on-premise processor a first request message from a ~~power load controller~~  
an end device pertaining to energy rating data, the end device controlling load  
activation, and wherein the first request message is communicated using a  
wireless communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the first  
request message through at least one other ~~power load controller~~ end device;  
sending from the on-premise processor a second request message over a  
distribution network to the host processor, the second request message  
pertaining to energy rating data;  
receiving at the on-premise processor a first rating response message over the  
distribution network from the host processor, the first rating response  
message including energy rating data;  
sending from the on-premise processor to the ~~power load controller~~ end device a  
second rating response message using the wireless communication link, the  
second rating response message including the energy rating data; and  
determining in the ~~power load controller~~ end device whether to generate an activation  
signal based at least in part on the energy rating data.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the activation signal  
activates a power load.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the activation signal  
activates a power generator.
13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the ~~power load controller~~  
end device further determines whether to activate the power load based on the current time.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the energy rating data  
comprises a first time period associated with a first usage rate and a second time period  
associated with a second usage rate.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the power load activated is one from the group of an air conditioning unit, an induction motor, a compressor, and a heating load.

16-74. (Canceled)

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.